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## GENERAL NOTES.

**A Breeding Place of *Pelecanus fuscus*.**—About the middle of March, 1882, while fishing and sailing on the Indian River, Florida, between Rock Ledge and the Indian River Inlet, my boatman took me to see a Pelican breeding place. The island where the birds *bred* was about two acres in extent, as near as I can remember, and not far from the east shore of the river. It was opposite a point on the west bank of Indian River, some two miles or more below the mouth of the St. Sebastian River. As the tide was low we pushed our boat as far up towards the land as we could, and waded ashore in the mud; landing through a gap in the low mangroves that fringed the island.

A dense mass of birds had risen at our approach and spread out over the island like a cloud. This great flock was joined by the laggards as we walked about; and the rush and roar of the flapping wings was tremendous. There were hundreds of birds in the air—perhaps a thousand. In tramping about, it was difficult to take a dozen steps in any one direction without treading on empty nests, fresh eggs, or young birds. Every stage of development was seen, from the new egg to the downy, ridiculous, full-grown young ones. The guano was so deep on the ground that

all vegetation near it was killed. Nearly all the trees and bushes above water line were dead or dying from this manure.

I remember seeing no other bird than the Brown Pelican. Unfortunately I took no notes at the time, but perhaps this imperfect account may be of some value as I hear the hatching places there are getting very scarce.—ROBERT H. LAWRENCE, *P. O. Humptulips, Washington.*

**The Whistling Swan in Massachusetts.**—I have lately purchased a Whistling Swan (*Olor americanus*) of Frazer Bros., the Boston taxidermists, who received it in the flesh from Michael McCarthy of Auburndale by whom it was killed December 17, 1890, in Weston, Massachusetts. It is a male, apparently an old bird for the plumage is perfectly free from grayish although somewhat soiled, perhaps by handling after death. Mr. McCarthy has given me the following account of the circumstances attending its capture:

He was walking along the west bank of Charles River near Norumbega Tower at about half past six o'clock in the morning, looking for ducks, when he saw seven large white birds within a yard or two of the shore in a bay where the water was perhaps two feet deep. They were apparently feeding on the bottom, thrusting their heads and long necks under the water every few seconds. He succeeded in getting within about seventy-five yards of them and fired, killing one, when the others at once rose and flew out of sight, following the course of the river towards Waltham, two, which were probably slightly wounded, lagging behind the rest. All looked pure white like the one captured. The latter weighed seventeen pounds. The morning was cloudy with an east wind which brought rain about noon. There was a little ice in the middle of the river but the water along the shores was perfectly open.

Charles River at the place where these Swans were seen is a broad, sluggish stream, expanding in a succession of bays and bordered on both banks by nearly unbroken stretches of woods.

There are three previous records of the occurrence of the Whistling Swan in Massachusetts within recent years, the first (Bull. Nutt. Club, III, 1878, p. 198) of a bird taken by F. P. Chadwick, March 4, 1878, on Coskata Pond, Nantucket; the second (Bull. Nutt. Club, IV, 1879, p. 125) relating to a specimen in the collection of the Boston Natural History Society which is supposed to have been shot at Nahant by a Mr. Taylor about the year 1865; and the third (Bull. Nutt. Club, VI, 1881, p. 123) of a flight of five birds seen passing over Somerset, October 16, 1880, by Mr. Elisha Slade.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**The Green Heron (*Ardea virescens*) Wintering in South Carolina.**—On December 16, 1890, I was very much surprised to see a Green Heron. As I wanted to see if the bird would really winter, I refrained from shooting it. I saw the bird again on January 9, 1891, and several times during the middle and latter part of the month. The last time I saw the bird was on February 13. This is the first instance I have of the Green Heron wintering.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*